NO ONE TEAM STANDS OUT AS PROBABLE WINNER IN 1916 AMERICAN LEAGUE CAMPAIGN

FAVORITES IN AMERICAN LEAGUE ARE SLIPPING AND OPEN RACE IS PREVAILING

Boston, Chicago, Detroit and New York Look Good, but None Stands Out Big Enough as "The One Best Bet"

FOR the first time in years the American League pennant dope is being kicked to pieces by the supposedly weak teams. Usually when the first of May rolls round, one finds the pre-season favorites fighting for the lead, and barring occasional sprints, the race generally finishes pretty much as the experts have doped it.

The famous Mack machine, the Red Sox, Tigers and either Washington or Chicago have been picked as likely pennant winners of the last five races. and after the first week or two all other teams have been eliminated. Last year at this time the Yankees were going strong, but they were quickly ousted from the lead and there never was any doubt about them being overhauled.

The breaking up of Mack's machine last year eliminated them from further consideration for a few years in the eyes of the dopesters, but left the Red Sox, White Sox, Tigers and reconstructed Yankees as the four heavy favorites to fight it out for the flag in the pre-season dope for 1916. All of these teams are within striking distance of first place at the present time, but none has shown enough to warrant making it the favorite.

Instead of the favorites stepping out in front early in May, it looks very much as if they are going to slip back quite a lot before the month ends. Not one of the four favorites is playing as well as was expected and the American League race is more open than it has been in 10 years. As a matter of fact, every one of the eight teams has a chance for the pennant.

Strange Things Have Happened in Baseball

Most every fan in the country will declare that the Athletics have not one chance in a thousand to win the pennant, but judging by what two of the favorites have shown in this city, there is absolutely no reason for counting the Mackmen out of the race. Local fans will be satisfied if the team finishes as high as sixth, but at the same time they must admit that the Athletics have looked just as good as any team they have played to date.

On paper the Mackmen look weak, but so does Washington, Cleveland and Boston, without Speaker. We do not think much more of the Athletic's chance to win the pennant than the average fan, but in baseball nothing but results count, and it is up to a few of the other teams to show marked superiority before we are willing to admit that there is any favorite in the

Fifteen years ago the Athletics entered the American League race with a team that was picked for last place, but won the pennant, Lajole, Flick, Bernhard, Fraser and Duggleby were taken from Mack by a court decision a few days before the season opened and the team entered the race budly demoralized. The addition of two players, Danny Murphy and Rube Waddell, made the pennant winning possible

The Pitchers of 1902 and 1915

Eddie Plank was less experienced than Crowell is now; Pete Hustings did not know as much as Myers; Howard Wilson was picked up from the lots of Frankford, while Fred Mitchell, later a catcher for the Braves, was a discard. They were the pitchers. That team in 1902 won the first pennant a Philadelphia club had captured since 1881. It was won because the men hustled CORNELL, IS STRONG all the time and played up-to-date baseball.

The present aggregation is no older, and is just as fast as the 1902 team. Seybold was slower then than Lajoie is now, while Lave Cross. Ossie Schreck and "Doc" Powers were slower than most of the present Macks. Manager Mack reminded his men of these things at yesterday's meeting in the clubhouse and instead of going on the field very much discouraged at the six onerun or extra-inning defeats, the men played even better ball than they have

Connie says that his team has not a chance to be in the pennant race-if the other teams show as well as their natural strength should permit-but he does say that the three Eastern teams will have to play 50 per cent, better ball than they have shown him to beat the Mackmen of August. Connie says the Athletics of August will be a much stronger team than the Athletics of April and May. Also that the teams the Mackmen have met to date have not shown him enough to warrant standing higher in the race than the Athletics.

A Couple of Youngsters Have Helped Washington

Washington is in very much the same position as the Atrictics. It is a wofully weak aggregation on paper when Walter Johnson is not in the mound, Talent Revealed

to find two or three young pitchers who appear to be capable of high-class work throughout the season.

Griffith's team entered first place yesterday, while the Athletics are still in the cellar, but the Senators were completely outplayed by the Mackmen three straight games. Two of the three games were won by Washington in the final linning because the inexperience (which will not be noticeable in a few weeks) of the youngsters cropped up at an inopportune time.

The nitching in the American League as a class has been horrible. It is barely possible that the whole East is weak, and that the great strength of the Western teams is responsible for the large scores and apparent weakness of the hurlers. There is no denying that the Western teams, barring pitching, look much stronger on paper than thos, of the East, but no one would ever accuse any of the teams in that section of being overly crowded with brains.

Detroit Is Most Consistent Team

Detroit is certain to be strong, again barring pitching, and probably will be just so long as Cobb, Crawford and company are going at top speed. This team plays header ball offensively than any other of the West, but until Jennings can trot out a few pitchers who can hold the opposing teams to less than five or can trot out a few pitchers who can hold the opposing teams to less than five or six runs to a game, it will not get off to the lead it should be able to muster with the rest of the teams going so poorly. To date Covaleakie is the only Detroit pitcher who has shown anything that looked like major league pitching.

Four and a half games separate Washington, which is in first place, and the Athletics, who are in the cellar. The Mackmen have handed six games away, two of which were to Washington. Give the Athletics four of these victories (allowing one in Washington) and they would be in first place. One month does not complete the pennant race, but a team that can stay up there for one month when it admittedly has not struck its stride might be able to stay there for good. The Phillies did it last year, and their chances did not look any better this time a year ago than those of Washington and the Athletics at the present time, excepting that the Phils got off to a flying start, while the Mackmen have passed up splendid opportunities.

We do not think such a thing is likely to happen by a long shot, but stranger things have happened, and there is absolutely no reason to count any team out of the American League race this season until some of the favorites show signs of playing real ball, which they not have done yet. Just remember the Athletics of 1902, and again in 1905, the Braves of 1914 and the Phillies of 1915.

Recruits from the Phillies and Athletics who are out under optional agreement have been doing well. Baumgartner and Fortune, two Philly hurlers, won their first games in impressive style, the former allowing four hits, while Fortune won a two-hit shutout victory in the Eastern League. Tincup and Rhoades did not fare so well, both being driven from the mound in International League games for Providence and Baltimore. Aldworth, the lanky red-headed youngster who started to show excellent form on the Athletica' barnstorming trip, won his opening day game for New Haven, striking out nine men and allowing only four hits. Mellinger also won his first game in the Carolina League.

Christy Mathewson, one of the most famous figures ever connected with the national game, will pitch his first game of the season on Thursday, and his effort will be watched with interest by fans throughout the country. He will oppose the Braves and a large percentage of the Boston fans will be pulling for Matty to come through a sterling exhibition. We are inclined to believe that Matty is due to fail, as there has been too much preparing for this effort. If Matty was really back in his old form he would not need such preparation, but would go to the mound without any fuss, just as he did in the past.

Why "Toots" Shultz, the former Penn and Philly twirler, is allowed to remain in a minor league is a mystery. Shultz has proven himself a better and smarter pitcher than many huriers who have come up from the International League in the last two years, but "Toots" is still with Providence. He started wrong as a major league pitcher, and is finding it hard to live down his past reputation.

IT HAPPENS IN THE BEST REGULATED FAMILIES



EASTERN TRACK TEAMS GET TESTS **NEXT SATURDAY**

Results Will Give Line on Chances of Each in Intercollegiates

By TED MEREDITH (Captain Penn Track Team)

This Saturday will be the day that will nake all the Eastern Colleges show their hands to the athletic public and allow them to see what they have in store for the Intercollegiates on May 27.

The Big Six of the track world will put their best men out on Saturday, when the Pennsylvania-Dartmouth, Harvard-Cornell and Princeton-Yale dual meets are held.

These meets will show the strength of the teams, and we can then get a good idea on which one looks the strongest. Cornell, I think, is, without a doubt, the strongest, with Yale second, but this dopa is so often upset that it is hardly safe to make any predictions until they have scovered and shown their full strength in a couple of dual meets.

has a good team this is sure to score heavily in the inter-colles ates. With such men as Oler, in the high jump; Overton, in the mile; Brown, in the hammer, and Treadway in the sprints, they look very strong. Yale also has three pole vaulters who went over 12 feet in their class games

last Saturday.

Mike Sweeney is helping Johnnie Mack

McCormick Star

McCormick, of Cornell, loomed up last Friday in the hammer throw, and proved that this season would not be an exceponal one in that there was to be no good ammer throwers. His throw of 150 feet inches looks to be good enough to win no intercollegiates and give Cornell a len on another first place which they ad not been generally conceded. He poks like the only good hammer man in the East, unless some of the men who were at the relays improve greatly. The rest of the field looked very poor, and not one of them got up to 140 feet.

one of them got up to 140 feet.

Pennsylvania can win the meet with Dartmouth, I think, but against Cornell we cannot do more than hope. With Joe Lockwood in form we were feeling that there was a good chance for this meet, but now it seems almost hopeless to look to winning the meet.

Cornell Strong

Cornell's team is a well-balanced one and they can score in every event pretty heavily. They will beat Harvard's team n Saturday too, unless Harvard has a nuch of men who will score seconds and Yesterday was a day of rest for all the

nen who had taken part in the relays. Some of them will start work again today n order to get around in shape for Sat-

urday's meet.

I am only going to work one day this week, Wednesday. My condition on Saturday was the best I think I have ever been in and I am afraid to work too much been in and I am afraid to work too much for fear of going stale for the intercol-legiates. I never ran a faster quarter than on Saturday, and my weight is down lower than it has been for three years. These are signs for rest to me.

Doctor Orton and Lawson Robertson have divided the work for this month. Octon will handle the runners and Roberts.

nave divided the work for this month. Orton will handle the runners and Robertson the field men. This will be a most matisfactory arrangement and every one will get lots of attention.

Carroll Brown In Southern League LOUISVILLE Ky. May 2.—Carroll Brown, formerly a member of the Louisville American Association pitching staff, has received word that he had been released to the Memphis Southern Association Club. Brown was secured from the New York Americans, but later was returned.

ACCURACY OF EYE PLAYS IMPORTANT PART IN TENNIS

Mental Concentration Also Necessary to Bring About This Condition on the Courts

By WILLIAM T. TILDEN, 2D Germantown Cricket Club. THE judgment of distance on a tennis

Lourt depends solely on the eye. The accuracy of the eye, granted that vision is unimpaired, depends on mental concentration on the point to be judged. Therefore to hit a flying tennis ball in the air, a feat which depends entirely on accurate judgment of the speed of the ball and its distance from you, absolute mental concentration on that ball is necessary.

The only way to insure this is to continually keep your eye on the ball until it becomes mechanical.

More shots are missed by taking a fleeting glance at your opponent just be-

fleeting glance at your opponent just be-fore making your shot than by any other

It is a known fact that it is four times as easy to judge a flying object approaching you in its last one-fifth of a second of flight as it is in its first one-fifth of a second. This is due to the focusing speed of the eyes. Since this is true, to look away from the ball just before striking it, or in other words in its last one-fifth or, in other words, in its last one-fifth of a second of flight, robs you of your last chance to clearly judge the ball. Why erspiring) candidate for tennis honors the ost important thing in tennis. Mr. Larned smiled and answered: "Putting

Matty to Try Come-Back in New York Thursday

NEW YORK, May 2.—Matty comes back Thursday—back to find out if he is still there as a pitcher. John Foster, secretary of the New National League Baseball Club, made this announcement last night:

"If the weather is good Thursday," said Foster, "Matty will try his arm out against the Boston Braves. The big fellow is bubbling over with enthusiasm and wants to get back in the box-back to give his arm a test.

"McGraw has given Matty his word that the big fellow can pitch Thursday, provided the weather is warm; and Matty is pulling for a real warm day."

Yale Has Football Practice

NEW HAVEN. Conn., May 2.—Spring foot-ball practice has begun at Yals, with a squad of about 70 men out. The first few days, according to Head Coach T. A. D. Jones, will be devoted to drill in fundamentals and later the squad will be put through aerimmage prac-tice. this latter an innovation in the spring work at Yals.

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COMPLETING GROUND STROKE Tilden is shown above after having sent the ball back from a ground-stroke shot.

nis are LOST, not WON. Seventy per cent, of that 80 per cent, go into the net, place yourself in this unnecessarily hard position by looking at your opponent. You will miss your shot if you do. William the ball in play. Since it is so essential A. Larned, many times national champion, was once asked by an aspiring (and judged so accurately that it can be hit fairly with the face of the racquet, and zince to do so one must, by mental conthe ball over the net in the other man's centration, see it in its last one-fifth of a second of flight to you, there is only one up tennis in that remark. Eighty per cent, of all the points in ten- BALL ALL THE TIME.

MURPHY VS. PIAZZI

Adam Ryan to Stage Second Show at Ryan A. C. Tonight

Seventeenth Ward laurels are at stake tonight, when Danny Murphy and Johnny Piazzi, intradistrict featherweight rivals, settle their dispute, puglistically, at the Ryan A. C. Piazzi is a southpaw and punches hard, while Murphy, also, is a son of swat, hence they should make things pretty interesting for each other,

endeavoring to land steep slam.

The other bouts follow: Harry Sullivan va. Tommy Sharp, Leo Flynn va.

Terry Ketchell, Mike Daly vs. Young Lawrence and Bobby Driscoll vs. Frankle

Pal Moore and Joe Welsh have been atched for the wind-up at the Lincoln Club Friday night.



COLUMBIA VS. PENNSYLVANIA BANGBALL TODAY, 8:50 P. M. FRANKLIN FIELD. 250 and 50c. Dan't Miss the Harrard Game. STRAW HAT DAY SATURDAY, MAY 6. Tickets on sale now

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Johnny Piazzi vs. Danny Murphy

SPRING GARDEN ST. BEL. ELEVANTH

HOME RUN WINS LEAGUE CONTEST FOR NORTHEAST

White Ties Score in Ninth and Carter Scores Winning Tally

Home runs and extra base hits lifted more than one baseball game from sure defeat to victory yesterday afternoon, both in the Interscholastic League and the independent series. It was the homer by White, of Northeast, that tied the score in the ninth and it was Carter, who doubled, and the clever work of Ridpath and Landberg, that gave the Red and Black the victory, 6 to 5, in 70 innings.

With two men out Gonover spaced to

With two men out Gonover scored for Germantown High in the league game with Trades' School, winning by his brilliant work in the ninth inning. Germantown won by a score of 0 to 8. Savin, the Manheim twirler, helped his team to the verdict when he fanned 11 batters and made two doubles. made two doubles. The old reliable Dave Smith came to The old reliable Dave Smith came to Penn Charter's relief in a very close game with Lansdowne High School. Dave Smith has already proved the fact that he is one of the best scholastic players in this section. He won the game for the Yellow and Blue with a triple when the bases were full. It was a deep hit to center for the part of the section.

Northeast High won the Interscholastic gradue tennis match with Episcopal Academy exaterday, four matches to one. The North-east players are coming along strong.



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CURTIS BILLIARD TOURNEY Lacier and Meade Win Opening Matches of 10-Day Schedule

Keen competition marked the initial matches of the 18.2 balkline billiard tournament that began at the Continental Billiard Room last night between employes of the Curtis Publishing Company. In one of the contests Lacier defeated Bardsley, 200 to 74, while in the other game Meade triumphed over Marshall, 225 to 74.

Game or No Game? Flags

Baseball fans in Chicago will

Baseball fans in Chicago will soon be poking their heads out of their office windows, or detailing their office boys to do that little thing, to see if "the flag is up."

This will follow the system to be introduced in the Windy City by

Charles Weeghman, president of the Chicago Cubs, whereby flags will

be displayed from prominent build-

ings in the business centre of the city, notifying the fans whether or not the scheduled game for that

day will be played.
Instead of smashing his thumb

as he closes his desk top with a crash in the race to get to the ball

park, only to find that the game is

off, the fan will be able to turn leisurely to his office boy and ask:

"Jimmy, will you glance out of the window and see if the flag is

Answer Chicago Fans

Within the folds of the Curtis Company there are many adroit wielders of the cue, and the tournament is successing considerable interest. The maiones will be continued about 10 days, two games to be decided every evening.



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